

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HOUSTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	.	CASE NO. 4:22-CR-612-7
	.	
PLAINTIFF,	.	
	.	
V.	.	HOUSTON, TEXAS
	.	THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023
MITCHELL HENNESSEY,	.	01:01 P.M. TO 01:04 P.M.
	.	
DEFENDANT.	.	
.		

ARRAIGNMENT

ALL PARTIES APPEARING VIA ZOOM

BEFORE THE HONORABLE DENA H. PALERMO
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:	SEE NEXT PAGE
ELECTRONIC RECORDING OFFICER:	BRANDIS ISOM
CASE MANAGER:	CAROL FELCHAK
OFFICIAL INTERPETER:	NONE PRESENT

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V.	.	
	.	
STEFAN HRVATIN,	.	
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ARRAIGNMENT

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BEFORE THE HONORABLE DENA H. PALERMO
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Appearances:

For the GOVERNMENT:

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Appearances (continued):

For the DEFENDANT:

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Surgoinsville, TN 37873

1 Houston, Texas; Thursday, January 5, 2023; 01:01 p.m.

2 (All parties appearing telephonically)

3 THE COURT: So in the case of *the United States of*
4 *America versus*, and I can't pronounce that name, *Eduardo*
5 *Constantinescu and others*. I don't know who's on that one.

6 Carol, is any -- who's on the -- who is being called
7 up on the Arraignment in that case?

8 CASE MANAGER FELCHAK: I can't tell that.

9 THE COURT: Case Number 4:22-CR-612. Who do I have
10 here on that case?

11 MS. CORDOVA: Your Honor, you have Laura Cordova on
12 Michael Murtha on behalf of Mitchell Hennessey.

13 THE COURT: Can you --

14 CASE MANAGER FELCHAK: Okay.

15 THE COURT: Can you unmute me? Am I unmuted?

16 CASE MANAGER FELCHAK: Yes.

17 (Pause in the proceeding.)

18 THE COURT: And who is the AUSA? Is it Mr. Carter?

19 MR. CARTER: Your Honor, I'll handle both Hennessey
20 and Hrvatin, the other -- the other Defendant is Mr. Stephen
21 Hrvatin.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And is he here? Is he on the
23 line? And is his -- his attorney on the line with him?

24 MR. MALLETT: Yes, your Honor. I'm Edward Mallett.
25 And I'm here with Mr. Hrvatin.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you. All right.

2 Okay. So, we're here for this case on a -- on an
3 arraignment, correct?

4 **MR. MALLETT:** That's correct.

5 **MS. CORDOVA:** Yes, your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. And do both counsel waive
7 formal reading of the charges in this case for their -- for
8 their clients?

9 **MS. CORDOVA:** Yes, your Honor.

10 **MR. MALLETT:** Yes, your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** All right. So, where is Mr. Hennessey?
12 Is he on here somewhere? There he is.

13 **MS. CORDOVA:** I see him.

14 **THE COURT:** There you are.

15 **UNKNOWN FEMALE:** We have a -- we have a bit of a Zoom
16 issue with the naming, cause that is Mr. Hennessee.

17 **THE COURT:** Okay. So, Mr. Hennessey, can you unmute
18 yourself?

19 **DEFENDANT HENNESSEY:** Yes, your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay.

21 **DEFENDANT HENNESSEY:** Can you hear me?

22 **THE COURT:** I can hear you.

23 All right. So, I need to ask you a couple of
24 questions. Have you had an opportunity to discuss the charges
25 against you with your attorneys?

1 **DEFENDANT HENNESSEY:** I -- yes, your Honor.

2 **THE COURT:** And do you understand the charges that
3 have been brought against you in this case?

4 **DEFENDANT HENNESSEY:** Yes. Yes, your Honor.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. And are you ready to enter a
6 plea at this time? Yes, or no?

7 **DEFENDANT HENNESSEY:** Yes, your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** And how do you plead to the indictment?
9 Guilty or not guilty?

10 **DEFENDANT HENNESSEY:** Not guilty, your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Okay. A not guilty plea has been entered
12 on your behalf.

13 Now, Mr. Hrvatin, is that -- did I say it right?

14 **DEFENDANT HRVATIN:** Yes, your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay. And you are with your attorney
16 right now. Can you tell me, have you had a chance to discuss
17 the charges against you with your attorney?

18 **DEFENDANT HRVATIN:** Yes, your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** And do you understand the charges that
20 have been brought against you in this case?

21 **DEFENDANT HRVATIN:** Yes, your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** And are you ready to enter a plea at this
23 time? Yes or no?

24 **DEFENDANT HRVATIN:** Yes, your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** How do you plead go the indictment?

1 Guilty or not guilty?

2 **DEFENDANT HRVATIN:** Not guilty, your Honor.

3 **THE COURT:** All right. A not guilty plea has been
4 entered on both of your behalf. Your case is pending before
5 Judge Hanen. And it is scheduled for jury selection and trial
6 on October 23rd, 2023. And that is at 9 a.m. in Judge Hanen's
7 courtroom.

8 There is a scheduling order in place on --on the
9 file. It's Document Number 88.

10 **DEFENDANT HRVATIN:** Thank you, your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Anything else? Anything else we need to
12 do at this time for these two Defendants?

13 **MS. CORDOVA:** No, your Honor.

14 **MR. MALLETT:** No, your Honor.

15 **MR. CARTER:** Not for the state, your Honor,
16 Government.

17 **THE COURT:** All right. Then you're all excused.
18 Thank you for coming in.

19 **(This proceeding was adjourned at 01:04 p.m.)**
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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the
electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-
entitled matter.

/s/ Cheryl L. Battaglia

February 9, 2023

Transcriber

Date

4:22-CR-612-7

01/05/23 - 02/09/23